

## GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN MANJU KAPUR'S NOVEL HOME

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### Abstract

*Most of the Indian women writers deal with the issues of gender discrimination in different ways and Manju kapur is one of them. The Gender discrimination arises mostly among the joint family as in the novel Home. The issue of gender Discrimination revolves around the life of the female protagonist Nisha. The life of Nisha has been controlled and dominated because of her gender, were being a woman she is asked to obey her parents decision by getting married. Nisha is suppressed by her family because of her effort to prove her identity. The story revolves around Nisha's life were she proves her identity after many obstacles. At the end Nisha becomes an entrepreneur in starting her own Business.*

This paper focuses on the gender discrimination of the women in the family, were they are being controlled by their family members. The protagonist is seen as a stranger because of her effort, she puts in to have an identity of her own. The comparisons of ideas between the male and the female regarding the differences in gender are the main issues discussed in this paper with the analysis of the Female Protagonist Nisha. The banwarilal is the head of the family, were his two sons support him with his business. Woman in the family are suppressed and questioned because of their behavior and actions. The Protagonist Nisha is being controlled and given reasons for her restrictions from her mother, the reason for all the restriction is that Nisha is a woman. Thus the gender is the major issue for a woman in a society and family were they are left behind being dominated without any valid reason. According to Merriam Webster dictionary the word "gender" is defined as the behavioral, cultural or traits typically associated with one sex. The word "Discrimination" is defined as the act of making or perceiving a difference. The gender discrimination means an individual who is differentiated on the basis of their gender.

Manju kapur's novel *Home* relates the story of a joint family, were the issue of gender discrimination is seen as a common problem. The Banwarilal is the head of the family were his two sons Yashpal and pyarelal supports their father with their family business. His daughter-in-law and his wife takes care of the home and the children. Being in a joint family, the women are mostly discriminated by both the gender among the family members. The Protagonist Nisha's life has been controlled by her mother from the childhood to adulthood. Nisha has been mainly discriminated for Skin by her mother itself. From the date of her birth Nisha is seen difference because of her birth

sign Manglik. The life of Nisha has been controlled and dominated because of her gender, were being a woman she is asked to obey her parents decision by getting married and not to work. Nisha is suppressed by her family because of her effort to prove her identity. The story revolves around Nisha's life were she proves her identity after many discriminations. At the end Nisha becomes an entrepreneur in starting her own Business.

In a joint family, the priority for the gender speaks a lot than the wish of the woman. There is always a partiality among male in the family when compared to the woman in the family. The gender discrimination arises even in the case of kids in the family, were Nisha asks her mother to go out for playing as her brother Raju. She is restricted and her mother stops her at home. Nisha feels frustrated and her mother tells Nisha that if she goes out for playing her skin would become black and that Nisha would look like the maid in her home. Nisha in anger questions about her Brother raju whose skin color is already dark but the reason her mother gives her relates the society's superstitious belief which itself a discrimination in minds of the people.

*Nisha: "so what? Raju is black".*

*Sona: "Raju is the colour of Krishna".*

*Nisha: "I also want to be the color of Krishna. I am going to play cricket in the sun".*

*Sona: "Krishna is God. You will look like the sweeper woman in our house. You want to look like a kali bhanisi?" (Home 52).*

There is a discrimination between kids, which shows that even from their childhood, a girl child is taught to remain silent even if the things around her are not of her wish. Nisha's wish of playing outside vanishes in the air by the words of her mother where she always turns partial towards her brother raju. Nisha is being discriminated in

every aspect when compared to her brother and cousins. When the boys enjoyed playing outside, Nisha was forced to sit and play inside the house with her grandmother listening to the stories. When it comes to gender the boy child has liberty to enjoy their life, whereas the girl child at home has to listen to prayers and mantras from the elders as a custom. The woman in the family is not allowed to suggest idea or to oppose it even if it is wrong, whereas man can even if it is right. The gender discrimination is very clearly seen through the characters of the novel as manju kapur has shown the fate of the woman who follows the man blindly without questioning him.

In a Society or in a family a woman are always being around the circle of her own which doesn't allow her to have an identity of her own. When Nisha wants to pursue her higher education, she is being suppressed by her mother. The desire of Nisha's education is seen as an utter waste of time as well as a disadvantage of her married life. Nisha's mother Sona tells her to sit at home and learn cooking which will be useful for her future instead of studying. Sona is more concerned about her daughter's married life instead of her identity. She is conscious about the groom's qualification but not her daughter's. The man is allowed to choose his educational qualification of his own choice, whereas even a woman is willing to study further she is being restricted. The Desire of an individual woman is not only discriminated under the basis of her gender but also by the same gender's opposition towards them.

Sona states that, "*People are suspicious of brides who are very educated. Too many ideas make it difficult to adjust*" (Home 140).

Nisha's college life was filled with happiness as she met her love Suresh. Nisha becomes a bold girl to wander and roam the university and spends time with her love suresh at coffee houses, which became a routine for her. She even cuts her hair forgetting all the restrictions back home. The dressing style also changes as she changes herself for the wish for her love. The life of nisha was full of changes as, she was converting herself from a traditional girl to a modern girl. She started wearing clothes of her choice instead of her mother's decision. She became a forwarded girl in her appearance as well as her Attitude.

Nisha's love affair with Suresh creates an big problem in the life of Nisha, as she has to face many questions. Nisha was restricted to meet Suresh, but then she pleaded to meet him. Nisha couldn't accept the words of her brother Raju regarding her love suresh. She shouts boldly at her brother for accusing him as a crude fucker and not

accepting her point of view. She emerges as a modern woman who reflects the modernity in her by protesting for her life. She clearly says that men and women are equal at all ways.

*She rebels: "who are you to decide whether I am trustworthy"... (Home 199).*

Later nisha wants all her failures and opinion of her to be changed as she wanted a identity which was worth it, comparing to the other male members in the home. She studied fashion designing, and also with the techniques Nisha decided of starting a new business. She also wanted to open a shop like her father with her own creations. The Idea was again opposed by the same gender, the woman of the family started opposing the idea of Nisha, that this would spoil their family's tradition. Especially the women are mostly discriminated on the basis of their skin color, their attitude towards the customs and the behavior against the family.

Yashpal ignored all the suggestions from the woman, and supported her daughter to work in a school instead of working in a shop. Nisha was not happy but then she agreed to work. Meantime Nisha gets an idea to start business of salwar suits. Her thirst for identity makes her bold enough to again ask permission to her father to start a business of her own. She just asks for a chance to prove her strength and asks for a year to prove her ability with her innovative ideas.

*"Give me a chance to show you what I can do", (Home 287)*

The journey of Nisha's life Starts as an Business woman with Self-assured and confident in her appearance. The New woman in her made her pronounce her violation and conviction. Nisha's business was accepted by her family and her father arranges a place for her work. Her father lends her some money to start a business, Nisha assures to return the money in a month. The confidence in her make her feel the power .Nisha names it as "Nisha Creations".

Nisha's business became a popular shop in the market which brought her credit for her Hardwork. She felt proud when her brother Raju, appreciated her work of quality and the response she had from the customers. Yashpal felt proud of her daughter Nisha. Yaspal never discriminated among his kids, he always gave chances to his kids to realize their potential. When Nisha's brother appreciated her work talent, she was pleased and the hope of her desire was fulfilled. Though the woman in the family was not pleased by Nisha's decision, later they have also started helping her in business.

When Nisha's business was earning credits to her work, meanwhile her marriage was also fixed. Nisha was married to widower who was in his early thirties, he was also a manglik. This shows that if a Man is the manglik, it is seen as only a birth mark whereas in Nisha's life as a manglik, she was forced to pray and fast for her married life and she was also discriminated which was of not her fault. The superstitious belief is one of the most common issues for gender discrimination. People started following the norms, especially woman followed and accepted the norms for the sake of the wellness of her family.

At the end Nisha delivers a twin baby after months of marriage. Now in the midst of her family in her own home, she was a perfect mother, daughter-in-law and wife. Nisha was happy that as a individual woman, where she could create a separate space for herself in her home and society. As an educated and spirited new woman, she

refused to be at home instead tried to establish her own identity.

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